

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data acquisition and retrieval system having
wireless handheld interfaces for user entry of data, said system
comprising:
a data base for storing data input by said user;
a command server for managing said data base;
a communications server for receiving and transmitting packets of
information to and from said handheld interfaces, said packets
being constructed in a first format having a header and a data
segment, said communications server converting packets to a
second format and constructing a message therefrom, said
communications server transmitting said message to said command
server; said command server accessing said database and returning
a message list, said communications server converting said
returned message to said first format of said packets and
transmitting said packets to said handheld interfaces, said
handheld interface using a touch pad for allowing the user to
enter data by contacting virtually defined regions on said touch
pad.